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LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) and paragraph 1 of resolution 780 (1992), as well as in the light of resolution 798 (1992), I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, an addition to our earlier submissions of documents concerning war crimes in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

I would kindly request that you arrange that this letter and the first four pages of the present submission ("The extent of violation of women's human rights and raping as a new type of war crime in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina", dated 30 December 1992) be circulated as a document of the Security Council and that the entire material be made available to interested delegations.*

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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* The material may be consulted in room S-3520.

Annex

THE EXTENT OF VIOLATION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND RAPING AS A NEW TYPE OF WAR CRIME IN CROATIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Medical documentation

This report is based on data of the University Clinics of the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb as well as on the documentation of major medical centres in Croatia; this report does not encompass individual cases treated in oupatient medical institutions or outside the gynaecological and obstetric wards. It is extremely hard to obtain medical documentation on that issue due to the following reasons: the rapings were not systematically reported during the aggression against Croatia and only a small fraction of cases of mass raping of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina were reported. Presently, we have collected 20 cases of raped women with complete medical documentation as well as an additional 80 cases of raped women with currently incomplete documentation.

Enclosed one can find the description of several illustrative cases (filed and stored under the following codes: SIL-425, SIL-426, SIL-427, SIL-428, SIL-429, SIL-430, SIL-431, SIL-438) as well as characteristic individual written testimonies of raped victims (testimonies under the codes SIL-60, SIL-61, SIL-202, SIL-414, SIL-415, SIL-418, SIL-419, SIL-420, SIL-421).

Timing

Before 2 April 1992 raping occurred within the occupied parts of Croatia, especially in the present UNPROFOR Sectors East, West and North. The major sites of raping of captured women were private camps held by local Serbian paramilitaries but one has to emphasize that women from the Vukovar area were raped in the concentration camps of Begejci and Stajićevo situated in Vojvodina, Serbia, (autumn and winter 1991) in which almost 2,000 civilians from the Vukovar area were imprisoned. After 2 April 1992 (i.e. after the outbreak of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina) mass rapings of predominantly Muslim women became a widespread phenomenon in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unfortunately, only now has the time arrived in which we are able to record the most unfortunate consequence of those brutal violations of women's rights - advanced pregnancies and deliveries of unwanted babies. From the timing of events, it is obvious that this will emerge as a mass phenomenon in the near future.

Raping as a tool for ethnic cleansing: a new kind of war crime

The spatial pattern and time schedule of brutal and mass raping clearly demonstrate that mass raping served as a tool for ethnic cleansing - mass rapings occurred in the initial phase of ethnic cleansing in those areas from which Muslims and Croats were later completely expelled (Bijeljina, Zvornik, Foča, Višegrad, Prijedor, Kozarac, Doboj, Modriča). Furthermore, mass rapings occurred in the areas flanking the major routes of Serbian military operations serving to expand the "pure Serbian land". Finally, there are clear signs of "synchronized action": mass raping occurred in several places in the same way, leading to the same consequences.

Total number of rape victims

In contrast to the limited number of cases recorded with complete medical documentation, there are many more written testimonies and survivor or eyewitness reports, all indicating clearly that raping is a mass phenomenon and a widespread form of war crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is obvious from that documentation that at least several thousand women were exposed to brutal raping and maltreatment. However, the total number of raped and tortured women is definitely much higher - at least half of the people detained in camps controlled by the Bosnian Serbian Army were women and about one third of them were obviously raped; therefore one can estimate that there were at least 10,000 raped and tortured women until now (estimation based on the following data: at least 60,000 people were detained in Serbian camps, half of whom were women; one third of that is about 10,000). Finally, official sources from Bosnia and Herzegovina claim that according to their evidence the total number of raped women is even higher - estimates range to up to 60,000 raped women!

Types of raping and types of detention "brothels" and camps

Systematic raping in Bosnia is a specific method of torture, functioning as a tool of psychological warfare and ethnic cleansing. The rape is directed and serves the practical aims of aggression and conquest of the new territory.

Place: raping occurred (a) within the occupied territory and (b) in various kinds of detention places.

Phenomenology: rapings were brutal and performed in front of as many people as possible, frequently in combination with arbitrary executions and massacres.

Basic scenario: Bosnian Serbian Army units occupy the village/town and establish the so-called "military authorities" consisting of local Chetniks who know both the area and the people. These "authorities" start to prepare lists of non-Serbians and mark their homes; arbitrary arrests, beating,

murders, deportation of all men into detention camps and raping of remaining women (including very young girls and elderly women) follow, the perpetrators being either mercenaries or local members of Serbian paramilitary units. Finally, high-ranking Yugoslav Army officers arrive, offering to the terrified people permission to leave (in order "to protect them"). Terrified people of course accept this as their only chance to survive and, as a consequence, Serbs got an ethnically cleansed territory while surrounding countries got a huge number of refugees.

Raping in detention places: mixed camps (containing detainees of both sexes) were characteristic of Serbia and occupied parts of Croatia, while camps with exclusively female detainees are a feature characteristic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The characteristic features of brutal rapings are as follows:

(a) Women were raped many times by many perpetrators, physically tortured and simultaneously forced to do fellatio and to swallow the sperm;

(b) Women were frequently raped in front of their first relatives (husband, children, parents) and they were also frequently disfigured, cut with knives or simply shot;

(c) A group of women were locked up and repeatedly raped by a number of perpetrators and at least in some cases mother and daughter were raped simultaneously.

Consequences: The outcome of sexual abuse and maltreatment can be as follows:

(a) The victim stays alive but suffers from serious psychological and physical consequences, frequently aggravated by the fact that one or more members of her family were killed;

(b) The victim is killed. Furthermore, some victims became pregnant and we recorded three sorts of consequences: (i) abortion is performed on the enemy side (usually they had to pay a lot of money for that); (ii) the victim is released soon enough to perform a legal abortion and (iii) the victim is kept in detention until abortion becomes legally impossible.

Age and nationality of victims

The majority of rape victims were Muslim women, ranging in age from a 6-year-old girl to an 80-year-old woman. They can be categorized as follows: (a) below 14 years of age, i.e. children (especially frequent in Bosnia and Herzegovina), (b) married or unmarried fertile women and (c) elderly women. It seems that within occupied parts of Croatia the most frequent victims of rape were fertile women, while in Bosnia and Herzegovina the most frequent victims of raping were quite young girls, teenagers or even children who were driven to brothel-camps and treated there like white slaves. Several such brothel camps were registered: Vilina Vlas and Bikavac in Višegrad, Brezovo

Polje near Brčko, Vogošća, Vrace Grbavica, Kula, Pale, Hadžići and Ilijaš, all around Sarajevo; Kalinovik, Kotor Varoš, Foča, Prijedor, Rogatica, Zvornik, Šekovići and Nevesinje.

Zagreb, 30 December 1992

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